

Case 2937

***Cacoxenus indagator* Loew, 1858 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation of the generic and specific names**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the generic and specific names of *Cacoxenus indagator* Loew, 1858, a widespread European fly belonging to the DROSOPHILIDAE which is a symbiont of bees of the genus *Osmia* Panzer, 1806. The larvae of some *Cacoxenus* species are predators of coccids and pseudococcids. The original specimens of *Domomyza cincta* Rondani, 1856 are actually specimens of *C. indagator*, but since its establishment *Domomyza* has been placed in the AGROMYZIDAE (usually as a synonym of *Agromyza* Fallén, 1810) and neither it nor the specific name of *D. cincta* have had usage for drosophilids. It is proposed that Rondani's slightly earlier names *Domomyza* and *cincta* be suppressed to conserve *Cacoxenus* and *indagator*.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; AGROMYZIDAE; DROSOPHILIDAE; *Cacoxenus*; *Domomyza*.

1. The nominal genus *Domomyza* was established by Rondani (1856, p. 121) in a combined key description of the genus and the new species *D. cincta*; he placed it in the family AGROMYZIDAE. Although under the modern Codes *D. cincta* is by monotypy the type species of *Domomyza*, in 1875 Rondani himself stated (p. 168) that *Agromyza nigripes* Meigen, 1830 was the type; he gave a description of *D. cincta* on p. 175.

2. *Domomyza* has been placed in the AGROMYZIDAE ever since Rondani's time; it has usually been regarded as a synonym of *Agromyza* Fallén, 1810 (for example by Hendel, 1927, p. 249), and as such it has been very little used. Papp (1984, p. 341) treated *Domomyza* as a nomen dubium and stated that *D. cincta* was an unrecognizable species.

3. Loew (1858, p. 217) described the nominal genus *Cacoxenus*, containing only the new species *C. indagator* (p. 218); this is therefore the type by monotypy.

4. The name *C. indagator* has been used in at least 55 papers (of which seven mention it in the titles); the species, which parasitises bees of the genus *Osmia* Panzer, 1806, is widely distributed in Europe and has been studied in the fields of ecology, morphology, embryology and behaviour (e.g. Osten Sacken, 1892; de Meijere, 1944; Juillard, 1947, 1948; Ashburner, 1981; Olifir, 1990). It appears in the keys to the DROSOPHILIDAE of various regions (for example Duda, 1924, pp. 178 and 225; Kloet & Hincks, 1945, p. 400; Fonseca, 1965, p. 243; Stackelberg, 1970, p. 392).

5. Deeming (1988) studied seven original Rondani specimens of *Domomyza cincta* and found that they are not agromyzids but are specimens of the drosophilid

Cacoxenus indagator: he reported that K.A. Spencer had selected a male lectotype for *D. cincta* from 'Emilia et Etruria', Italy. Spencer & Martinez (1987, p. 267) noted Deeming's finding, then in press, and in their corrections to Papp's (1984) catalogue removed *D. cincta* from the AGROMYZIDAE.

6. Apart from two recent instances by myself (Sidorenko, 1990a, p. 216; 1990b, p. 129) the generic name *Domomyza* has never been used in the DROSOPHILIDAE; the specific name of *D. cincta* has never been used for a drosophilid (nor even in the AGROMYZIDAE for very many years). I now believe that the replacement of *Cacoxenus* by *Domomyza* and of *C. indagator* by *D. cincta* would cause confusion and serve no purpose, and there is a prima facie case for suppression of the earlier generic and specific synonyms.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) the generic name *Domomyza* Rondani, 1856;
 - (b) the specific name *cincta* Rondani, 1856, as published in the binomen *Domomyza cincta*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cacoxenus* Loew, 1858 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Cacoxenus indagator* Loew, 1858;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *indagator* Loew, 1858, as published in the binomen *Cacoxenus indagator* (specific name of the type species of *Cacoxenus* Loew, 1858);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Domomyza* Rondani, 1856, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *cincta* Rondani, 1856, as published in the binomen *Domomyza cincta* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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